

HOUSE RESOLUTION 427

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Nancy Wilson for her many professional accomplishments.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to honor those individuals who, through their extraordinary musical talents, have distinguished themselves in the arts, establishing themselves as American icons; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding vocalist who has become a permanent fixture in American music is Nancy Wilson; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wilson has been described as a storyteller, a consummate actress, and the complete entertainer; her musical style is impossible to classify because of her diverse repertoire, which includes pop-style ballads, jazz, blues, show tunes, and well known standards; and

WHEREAS, born in Chillicothe, Ohio and raised in Columbus, Nancy Wilson knew she wanted to become a singer by the tender age of four after spending countless hours with her father listening to many celebrated vocalists, including Billy Eckstein, Louis Jordan, Ruth Brown, LaVerne Baker, Nat King Cole, Jimmy Rushing with Count Basie's Orchestra, and Lionel Hampton's Little Jimmy Scott; and

WHEREAS, as a child, Ms. Wilson played an active role in church music, school choirs, and dance bands before beginning her professional singing career at age fifteen when she landed her own television show, Skyline Melody, on a local station and began performing in various clubs throughout the Columbus area; and

WHEREAS, wary of the inherent uncertainty in the music industry, Nancy Wilson enrolled in the teacher training program at Central State College, but her passion for music and destiny's call eventually convinced her to leave college and pursue her dreams of stardom; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wilson joined the Rusty Bryant Band, moved to New York in 1959, and then landed a permanent spot at the Blue Morocco, singing four nights a week and working as a receptionist during the day; and

WHEREAS, after John Levy, Julian “Cannonball” Adderley’s manager, witnessed her magnificent performance one night, she was awarded a contract with Capitol Records, which immediately recognized her potential, and she released five of her albums between April of 1960 and July of 1962, two of which remain in-demand re-issues to this day; and

WHEREAS, over the course of her remarkable career, this song stylist has garnered the love and devotion of millions of fans, and her numerous albums have always received critical acclaim. Her album, *How Glad I Am*, earned her the 1964 Grammy Award for Best Jazz Vocal Album, *R.S.V.P.* received the 2005 Grammy Award for Best Jazz Vocal Album, and her third CD on the MCG Jazz label, *Turned To Blue*, which was released in August of 2006, brought her a third Grammy Award; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Wilson’s appeal also reaches into the world of television. She has performed on variety shows such as *The Andy Williams Show*, *The Carol Burnett Show*, and *The Flip Wilson Show* and even had her own program, *The Nancy Wilson Show* on NBC, which won an Emmy in 1975; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wilson is also a talented actress and has appeared on numerous popular television shows throughout the years, including *I Spy*, *Room 222*, *Hawaii Five-O*, *Police Story*, *The Cosby Show*, *Soul Food*, *New York Undercover*, *Moesha*, and *The Parkers*; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, Nancy Wilson lent her articulate voice, jazz credibility, and tremendous talents to National Public Radio, hosting their Jazz Profiles series; and

WHEREAS, strongly committed to community and public service, Ms. Wilson donated all the proceeds from the sale of *A Nancy Wilson Christmas*, her only Christmas album, which was released for the 2001 holiday season, to MCG Jazz, a social enterprise supporting the youth education programs of the Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild, a non-profit, minority-directed arts and learning organization; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Nancy Wilson has amassed a plethora of honors, including both the 1986 and the 2005 NAACP Image Award for Best Jazz Artist, a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, numerous honorary doctorate degrees, countless streets and days dedicated in her honor, the 2005 UNCF Trumpet Award, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the NAACP in Chicago, and Oprah Winfrey's Legends Award; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wilson is a highly accomplished individual who has contributed significantly to the arts and to the entertainment of the citizens of this great State and citizens all over the United States, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Nancy Wilson for her successful career in the music industry and wish her every success in all of her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.